

From: MikeAfromTX@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 4:34pm
Subject: (no subject)

Gentlemen:

I have been using PC's since 1977 and since the debut of the MS operating systems with the advent of the IBM PC MicroSoft has consistently tried to force (and has almost succeeded) all other operating systems out of business. They do this by incorporating packages into the OS (currently varying versions of "Windows") that are usually sold as stand-alone, by using their marketing power to force the authors of most software to write only for MS-based systems, and by forcing PC dealers to put only their (MS) products on PC's if they wish to continue doing business with MS, restricting any changes to the product the dealers and/or customers might wish.

The MS products are over-hyped and have a history of failing when released, the most notable example being "Windows 95", which was usually not installable when first released, and required special downloads adding to the cost of the product. Additionally, they never really complete one product and eliminate the bugs in it, preferring instead to leave users with junk while they go on to the "new, improved" next edition of the product, always at increasing cost.

The oft-stated resolution is to by another product if you do not like "Windows"; what product would that be that runs the software that is so prevalent in the industry? Linux is mostly a server platform and Unix as so unfriendly to users so is restricted to scientists and engineers. The only other package would be the Apple Operating System, and that requires a specific computer and package that at a minimum is twice as expensive as a standard PC with software.

The roll-over by the Republican party to the big campaign contributor Bill Gates and MS is no solution at all; merely a wink, a nod and a "Gee, you really should be more careful!" kind of warning. At the very least MS should be forced to sell only a striped down version of its OS, minus any enhancement that is currently being sold as stand-alone; better yet would be to break the company into two independant segments, with Bill Gates prohibited from any dealings/ownership/stock in one of them. If this is not possible then the OS should be treated as a monopoly in the interest of the nation and tightly controlled as public utilities used to be before greed got the better of this nation.

I realize the government will probably bury this response, but it sure would be nice if for once it acted for the good of the people instead of a corporation or political party; it would also be nice if the judge in the case had a chance to see it before it is shredded. In any case, I am sure you will not mind if I forward a copy to various industry publications.

Thank you for your time.

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